(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor and how many employees were effected;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the remaining units are working at substantially low capacities;

(f) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(g) what steps Government have taken to overcome the predicament mentioned in parts (a), (c) and (e) above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) The performance of the mini steel industry has been affected for various reasons such as high power tariff and increase in input costs specially due to rise in international scrap prices.

(c) to (f) As per information available, out of 180 commissioned electric are furnace units, 85 units have been lying closed as on date. Besides the reasons stated above, overall recession in the market as well as in many cases financial/labour problems have also been reported as reasons for their closures. Out of 85 closed units, 45 units are lying closed for more than 3 years, 11 units are lying closed since 1991-92, 22 units since 1992-93 and the remaining 7 units have been closed during 1993-94, 18,408 persons have been reportedly affected due to the closures of these units. The remaining units have also been reported to be running at underutilised capacities.

(g) Government have recently constituted an Evaluation Group to examine the problems of mini steel plants and suggest a comprehensive action plan for their development. Besides, import duty on carbon steel melting scrap has now been reduced from 12.5% advalorem to 10% ad valorem.

Prices of DDA flats/plots

1704. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of DDA flats/plots of late have sky rocketed as compared to the figures quoted at the time of registration;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to severe price escalation, out of 8000 flats/allotments made by DDA last year, only about 2000 are believed to have been accepted by the original registrants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being contemplated to contain the abnormal rise in prices of DDA flats/plots so as to enable the original registrants to afford the purchase of plots and flats ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) The DDA has reported that the prices of DDA flats and land plots, as tentatively quoted at the time of registration, have to be revised from time to time because of increase in the cost of acquisition and development of land, escalation in the cost of materials and wages and higher cost of capital.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. In the year 1992-93, 12,673 allotments were made and 5,798 possession letters were issued. In the year 1993-94, 4,873 allotments have been made and 2,346 possession letters have been issued. The acceptance of allotment of flats, interalia, depends on the following :—

(i) whether the allottee gets the allotment in the area/floor of his choice.

(ii) whether the allottee is able to arrange funds towards the cost of flat.

(d) To minimise the increase in the cost of flats and plots, have been taken for more economical land use planning and speedier execution of projects.

Metro Rapid Transport System (MRTS) for Delhi

1705. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Metro Rapid Transport System (MRTS) for Delhi is under the active consideration of the Government NCT of Delhi and the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have so far taken or propose to take in this regard including the allocation of funds, acquisition of land and the time frame by which it is likely to be completed ?